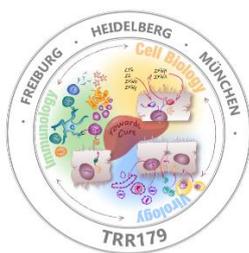




VIROCAREER COMPASS 2026 NAVIGATING YOUR CAREER IN VIROLOGY

Program

Thanks to our sponsors!



Monday 16.03.2026

Welcome and get to know each other (Konstantin Sparrer and Benjamin Meyer)

09:00-09:15 Welcome, introduction to ACHIEVE

09:15-09:30 Get to know each other

1. Session: Career options 7min each

09:30-10:30 Career pitches

Susanne Pfefferle: Academic mid-level/diagnostics

Melina Vallbracht: Science at a federal institute (PEI)

Jochen Wettengel: Career in clinical virology

Konstantin Sparrer: Academia – tenured professor position

Benjamin Meyer: Dual career with family in science

Bianca Himmelhan: Career in Industry (Roche)

Martin Dass: Career in Industry (Boehringer Ingelheim)

Tim Hampp: Career in Industry (Keyence)

10:30-11:40 Coffee break and Panel discussion

Participants: Susanne Pfefferle, Melina Vallbracht, Jochen Wettengel, Konstantin Sparrer, Benjamin Meyer, Jens Kursawe, Bianca Himmelhan, Martin Das, Tim Hampp

11.40-11:50 Positioning: where would I go?



2. Session: Curriculum vitae

11:50-12:00 Idea collection: What makes a good CV?

12:00-13:30 Lunch

13:30-13:45 Benjamin Meyer (CV academia Pitch): Academic CV

13:45-14:00 Michael Thierolf (Early in Career Partner, Roche): Industry CV

14:00-15:00 Group Work

Rearrange idea collection

Building own or sample CV (3x groups industry, 3x groups academia)

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:30 Discuss individual CVs - 2min what are the important points -

3. Session: Grants

16:30-16:45 Konstantin Sparrer: What are grants and pitches

16:45-17:00 Idea collection: What makes a good proposal?

After 17:00 Hand out of sample grants – reading time

19:00 Dinner (Restaurant: Urban Kitchen)



Tuesday 17.03.2026

8:30-9:15 **Arrival (coffee and cookies)**

3. Session continued: Grants

9:15-10:00 Getting money in the post-pandemic time

Konstantin Sparrer: Overview – German and European Grants

Benjamin Meyer/Marco Hein: Grants in Austria and Switzerland

Jochen Wettengel: Getting money as a clinician

Gregor Jainta: Getting money from industry

10:00-10:30 Academic Keynote:

Kevin Ciminski: Writing an academic grant – challenges and pitfalls

10:30-11:30 Group work: Analysis of the sample grant as a reviewer

10:30-11:30 Coffee

11:30-12:00 The verdict of the reviewers – 5min presentation by each group

12:00-12:15 **Farewell**

12:00 **Go to GfV meeting**

Additional Information

Venue

DJH Hostel Heidelberg International
Tiergartenstraße 5
69120 Heidelberg

Dinner

- When: Monday 16.03.2026 at 19:00h
- Where: Urban Kitchen, Poststraße 36/5, 69115 Heidelberg